

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 remain in connection with the present application.

Submission of Certified Translation of Priority Document

Applicants note that each of claims 1-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,119,125 to Gloudeman et al. (the Gloudeman '125 patent) in view of U.S. Published Application No. US 2001/0042067 to Dayani-fard et al. (the Dayani-fard '067 published application). The Dayani-fard '067 published application was filed on October 4, 1999. Applicants submit the aforementioned certified English language translation of German priority document no. 19910535.9 filed March 9, 1999, in an effort to perfect their right to priority in connection with the present application. By filing the certified English language translation of the German priority document, Applicants effective U.S. filing date becomes that of March 9, 1999, a date which is prior to that of the October 4, 1999 filing date of the Dayani-fard '067 published application.

Accordingly, in view of the perfecting of Applicants' right to priority, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to remove the Dayani-fard '067 published application as prior art in connection with the present application. As such, the Examiner's rejection has been rendered moot.

Claim Rejections

As stated above, the sole remaining rejection in connection with the present application is that of claims 1-27, which have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the Gloudeman '125 patent in view of the Dayani-fard '067 published application. As stated above, by Applicants perfecting their right to priority in connection with the present application, the prior art rejection has been rendered moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of each of claims 1-27 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

In view of above remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding rejection and allowance of each of claims 1-27 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants hereby petition for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$450.00 extension fee herewith.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Andrew M. Waxman, Reg. No. 56,007, at the number of the undersigned listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment

to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37
C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By 
Donald J. Daley
Reg. No. 34,313

DJD/AMW:bof

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, VA 20195
(703) 668-8000